

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

PURPOSE STATEMENT

BASIC PURPOSE

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) comprehensively addresses the ongoing decline of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) ecosystem and uncertainty regarding water supply reliability. The integrated purposes of the BDCP are to: 1) protect, restore and enhance aquatic, riparian, and associated terrestrial natural communities, ecosystems, and certain listed species by reducing the adverse effects associated with the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) diversion of water from the south Delta; and 2) restore and protect the ability of the SWP and CVP to reliably divert and deliver water up to full contract amounts, when hydrologic conditions result in the availability of sufficient water, consistent with the requirements of state and federal law and the terms and conditions of water delivery contracts held by SWP contractors and certain members of San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA).

OVERALL PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the BDCP is to establish a systematic framework to restore and enhance ecological conditions in the Delta to benefit listed and non-listed aquatic and terrestrial species, designated in accordance with the federal Endangered Species Act and California State Endangered Species Act, and to secure authorizations that would allow projects that restore and protect water supplies, water quality, and ecosystem health to proceed within a stable regulatory structure. This would be accomplished by establishing additional CVP and SWP water diversion facilities in the north Delta, reducing the loss of listed and non-listed fish at existing south Delta water diversion facilities, restoring and enhancing ecological conditions by re-establishing tidal inundation of selected lands within and adjacent to the Delta, increasing the frequency and duration of flooding in existing floodways, modifying land use and habitat management practices to enhance habitat values, and implementing actions to relieve other stressors that may contribute to the decline of listed aquatic and terrestrial species in the Delta.